Exoplanet space missions of the next decade: where are we heading to?

László Kiss Konkoly Observatory

"Unsolved Problems in Astrophysics and Cosmology" Budapest, July 2-6 2018



Is there life elsewhere?

Are we alone?

Transiting exoplanets: since 2000



The Kepler era: since 2009







PLANET SIZE (relative to Earth)

Exoplanet Discoveries





Kepler's Small Habitable Zone Planets

As of May 10, 2016



Dedicated exoplanet space telescopes till 2030







April 2018: TESS

- Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite
 - Bright stars (<~10 magn.), whole sky in two years
 - Four 10.5 cm cameras, 1/24th of the sky with CCDs (24 x 96 deg FoV)
 - (Short period) transiting exoplanets
 - Lot of additional science
 - NASA mission, PI George Ricker (MIT)



Observability durations



(NASA)



TESS vs. Kepler: the survey volumes



2018/19: CHEOPS

- CHaracterising ExOPlanet Satellite
 - Known exoplanet host stars (V<12 mag)
 - A single 33 cm RC telescope, unfiltered CCD
 - Follow-up measurements
 - Lot of additional science
 - ESA S1 mission, PI Willy Benz (Univ. Bern)

Partner institutions in eleven European countries contribute to the realisation of the space mission CHEOPS under co-leadership between Switzerland and the European Space Agency (ESA).

For Switzerland

Scientific institutions: CSH University of Bern, University of Geneva, Swiss Space Center, EPF Lausanne.

Industrial partners: Almatech/Connova, Pfeiffer Vakuum AG, P&P Software, RUAG Space, and other partners.

State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI.



(CHEOPS Red Book)

2026/27: **PLATO**

- **PLA**netary **T**ransits and **O**scillations of stars
 - Large samples of bright stars (~4-16 mag) for months to years
 - 24+2 12 cm cameras, FoV=2232 sq. deg.
 - Discovery of transiting exoplanets, asteroseismic characterisation of the central stars
 - ESA M3 mission, PI Heike Rauer (DLR, Berlin)

Doppler planets and transiting exoplanets



(PLATO Red Book)



Figure 2.3: Expected yield of planets with highest characterisation accuracy (from P1 sample) in comparison to Kepler and TESS missions for two observing scenarios. Left, expected detection yield of small planets ($R < 2R_E$) around dwarf and sub-giant stars suitable for asteroseismology studies for Kepler (Lundkvist et al. 2016), TESS (Campante et al. 2016) and the PLATO core sample for an observing sequence of 3 years long pointing plus 1 year step-and-stare phase. We show orbital periods shorter than 150 days. Right, expected detection yield of small planets ($R < 2R_E$) in the habitable zone of solar-like stars for a scenario of 2 long pointings (baseline). For more details about how these values were derived, see Section 7.2.3.

(PLATO Red Book)



Figure 5.10: OHB spacecraft: separated PLM and SVM configuration.

2028: ARIEL

- Atmospheric Remote-sensing Infrared Exoplanet Large-survey
 - Infrared spectroscopy of ~1000 exoplanets
 - ~1 m IR telescope at L2
 - 0,5-8 micron spectra for atmospheric characterisation
 - ESA M4 mission, PI Giovanna Tinetti (UCL)



Expected output (with error bars) from the ARIEL processed data product compared with the input model assumption for a hot super-Earth similar to 55-Cnc-e around a G-type star with Kmag of 4. ARIEL performances using 8 eclipses (~32 hours of observation) are compared to currently available data for 55 Cnc e Spitzer-IRAC from (8 eclipses, Demory et al., 2016) and performances of Hubble-WFC3 extrapolated from transit observations of 55 Cnc e (Tsiaras et al., 2016).

(ARIEL ASR)



Figure 5-1:Illustration of the ARIEL S/C and its reference frame. The origin is at the geometrical centre of the separation plane between the LV adapter and the S/C (in the middle of the SVM bottom panel). The Z_{ARIEL} axis is coincident with the LV longitudinal axis (perpendicular to the separation plane or SVM bottom panel). The (X_{ARIEL} , Y_{ARIEL}) axes define the separation plane. X_{ARIEL} is parallel to the telescope pointing axis in this plane. Y_{ARIEL} completes the right-handed orthonormal triad. During nominal science operations, the Sun always remains underneath the SVM in the - Z_{ARIEL} hemisphere, to ensure the PLM is constantly obscured and can be passively cooled.

What can we expect?

